Reporting of poverty alleviation programmes for KBK

2263. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cabinet Secretary is submitting from time to time the report to Government by the end of every year on implementation of various poverty alleviation programmes, meant for KBK areas of Orissa;

(b) whether Government have laid in the Houses of Parliament the reports and the action taken notes thereon; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA): (a) As per the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961, the responsibility for monitoring, reviewing and evaluating the various poverty alleviation programmes rests with the concerned Ministries/Departments, which accordingly carry out these functions. With regard to the Long Term Action Plan (LTAP) for KBK areas, the Planning Commission does the co-ordination and monitoring of the progress. The Committee of Secretaries has discussed and reviewed the programmes in eight meetings from 1993 onwards. This practice would continue.

(b) to (c) No, Sir.

Poverty alleviation programmes in North-East

2264. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of poverty alleviation schemes formulated by Government for rural, hilly and backward areas of North-Eastern region;

(b) the funds allocated to North-Eastern region during the Ninth Five Year Plan and the funds actually allocated for the region during the last two years; and

(c) the effective measure taken by Government to establish and strengthen the infrastructural and monitoring systems in the rural, backward and hilly areas of the region?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA): (a) The major poverty alleviation programmes being implemented by this Ministry in rural areas are Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojna (SGSY) and Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY). These schemes are implemented in hilly and backward areas of North Eastern region also.

(b) The funds allocated to North Eastern region, including Sikkim, for the poverty alleviation schemes during Ninth Five Year Plan and for the last two years are given

below: (Rs. in Crores)

9th plan	2061.98
1997-98	350.91
1998-99	353.20

(c) The Government have established a system of monitoring and evaluation which includes various mechanisms such as progress reports; financial returns; audit reports; intensive inspections by officers of both the Central Government and the State Governments; Area Officers schemes and review by various Committees. In addition, all the States have been requested to set up Vigilance and Monitoring Committees at State/district and block levels.

Contribution of enhanced decentralization in rural areas

2265. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether successive Governments have been moving towards increased decentralization of Government functioning and strengthening of of Panchayati Raj institutions; if so, whether any study has been made to find out whether this enhanced decentralization has contributed towards improving the quality of public service delivery in rural areas, especially amongst the rural poor, and

(b) if so, what are the results thereof and what steps Government propose to take to achieve the anticipated advantages of decentralization?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Decentralisation of Government functioning and strengthening of Panchayati Raj Institutions has been a matter of concern for the Central Government. Although Panchayati Raj is a State subject and the issues relating to the strengthening of these Institutions are within the jurisdiction of the States/UTs, yet the States/UTs have been urged by th# Central Government at various fora to speed up strengthening of the PRIs to enable them to function as institutions of self-government. The devolution to the Panchayati Raj Institutions by the State Governments varies from State to State. No comprehensive study has been made to specifically assess the contribution of enhanced decentralisation towards improving the quality of public service delivery in rural areas, especially among the rural poor. Decentralisation and strengthening of Panchayati Raj Institutions is an ongoing process and it is expected to eventually lead to improve the quality of public service delivery through enhanced people's participation, especially the rural poor.